

**Robert Dinwiddie to George Washington, April 8, 1756,  
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.  
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**FROM GOVERNOR DINWIDDIE.**

WILLIAMSBURG Apr. 8th. 1756

SIR

You formerly had a Commission to appoint Courts Martial, as that was not explicit enough, but rather a Repetition of the Act of Assembly I therefore send You enclos'd an Order to appoint such Courts when You shall see proper, & its agreeable to Colo. Innes's Order from General Braddock —

I hope the Affairs of the Regimt. are not in so bad a Condition as represented here. The Assembly were greatly inflamed being told that the greatest Immoralities & Drunkenness have been much countenanced and proper Discipline neglected;<sup>1</sup> I am willing to think better of our Officers, & therefore suspend my Judgement till I hear from You. I desire You will keep them properly employ'd in Patrolling the Woods & if possible to scalp some of the barbarous Enemy, to prevent & discourage the inhuman Murders in our back Settlements. Majr. Lewis & his Men are return'd having done nothing essential. I believe they did not know the Way to the Shawnesse Towns, I expect him in Town to give a proper Acct. of his March &c. I wish You Health & hope to see You here soon. I remain

Sir Your Friend & hble Servt. ROBT. DINWIDDIE.

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1 “It gave me infinite concern to find in yours by Governour Innes, that any representations should inflame the Assembly against the Virginia Regiment; or give cause to suspect the morality and good Behaviour of the Officers. How far any of the individuals many have deserved such insidious reflections, I will not take upon me to determine: but this I am certain of; and can call my conscience, and what I suppose will be a more demonstrable proof in the eyes of the world, my Orders to witness how much I have, both by Threats and persuasive means, endeavored to discountenance Gaming, drinking, swearing and irregularities of every kind. While I have, on the other hand, practised every artifice to inspire a laudable emulation in the Officers for the Service of their Country, and to encourage the Soldiers in the unerring exercise of their Duty.”—Washington to Dinwiddie, April 18, 1756.